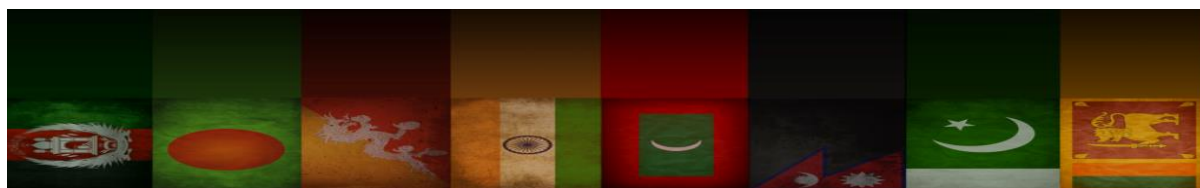




SAESM Initiative

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT Competition **On** **COVID Pandemic and South ASIA**



The South Asian Economics Students Meet (SAESM) founded in 2004 is a regional platform, which brings young and bright undergraduate economic students from across South Asia for an exciting conference in a beautiful South Asian city every year. This unique informal network consists of students/faculties from prestigious universities like Dhaka University, University of Colombo, students of various university of India, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Tribhubhan University, Kabul University and Sherubtse and Royal Thimpu College/Bhutan. During the Meet undergraduates from all seven countries of our region learn, explore and exchange ideas about the socio-economic challenges, which face our countries and the region through presenting research papers on the conference theme.

This year as we are all faced with a unique and menacing challenge- Covid 19. The global pandemic has effected everyone without distinction and threatens to alter the way we function as a society. While the disease poses serious socio-economic challenges, it also provides us a rare opportunity to think together about the varied socio-economic impact of such pandemics and effective policies to counter it today and in the future. Against this background, SAESM is excited to launch a new initiative in the form of a **Group Research Project, (GRP)** which allows students of South Asian colleges/universities to **COLLABORATE virtually**- *think create design and execute a research project.*

The broad indicative themes around which the projects are expected-(1) labour, migration and unemployment; (2) industry/manufacturing/value chains; (3) Trade and Investment; (4) Health and (5) education. Other ideas/themes are also welcome.

Important points for students

- A. **Students** keen on being part of this GRP should send in a 2-page expression of interest stating (1) why collaborative engagement can address challenges of research especially of COVID and South Asia and (2) which BROAD theme they think is important for assessing COVID impact and accordingly which theme is he/she applying for. Respective country networks of SAESM may chose additional criterion if required for selection. Interested students must be full time student of undergraduate program in Economics at a South Asian university at the time of applying. Applications should be addressed to the respective country coordinators.

- B. **A research group** will be formed with selected applicants from each South Asian countries. Each group will consist of **seven students, one each from a South Asian country**. The groups formed will have a unique opportunity to come together virtually and undertake their research agenda collectively.
- C. Each group of seven members define **a problem related to COVID** and its impact on the region in the form of an interesting, well **thought out** and **intelligently designed group** research proposal. *We expect them to come up with “research title and some hypothesis that they intend to explore”* The groups will get 3 weeks to decide on a problem and develop the group proposal collectively.
- D. **The research groups** will have **6 months** to work on the project and submit a report/paper to the Project coordinators. Faculties from South Asian colleges/university will mentor each group as the research advisors.
- E. The project will be co supported by the World Bank. Certificates will be provided to each member after completion of the project co supported by SAESM and World Bank.

Important Deadlines

1. Last date of application- 15th October 2020
2. A meeting of selected students and groups- October 31 ,2020 (WEBINAR)
3. Deadline for submission of project and its outline- 30th November ,2020
4. Start of project- 1st December,2020
5. Submission of projects-31st May 2021

Country coordinators

1. Afghanistan: Professor Sayed Fatah Sadat (Kabul University, Afghanistan)
2. Bangladesh: Professor Sayeema Bidisha (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)
3. Bhutan: Mr Ugyen Lendhup (Sherubtse College, Bhutan)
4. India: Dr Mihir Pandey (Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India)
5. Nepal: Mr Naveen Adhikari (Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Nepal)
6. Pakistan: Dr Ali Hasnain (Lahore School of Management Sciences, Pakistan)
7. Sri Lanka: Dr Shanuka Senarath (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Overall coordinators

Dr Deb Kusum Das, India

Professor Sayeema Bidisha, Bangladesh